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Docket No.: 03-41US
Serial No. 10/788,592

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A device for performing liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte from an aqueous sample comprising a liquid membrane supported on a porous polymeric substrate, wherein said liquid membrane has one side that can be placed in fluid communication with the aqueous sample containing the at least one analyte and a second side that can be placed in fluid communication with an acceptor solution, and wherein said liquid membrane comprises a fatty acid ester, or a vegetable oil, a silicene oil, or mixtures thereof.
2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said porous polymeric substrate is a hollow fiber.
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid ester comprises an acyl chain comprising from 12 to 30 carbon atoms.
5. (original) The device of claim 4, wherein said fatty acid ester comprises an ester portion comprising from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.
6. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the vegetable oil is soya oil, olive oil or tea tree oil.
- 7-8. (canceled)
9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a carrier.

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10. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the carrier is an organic ion, an ionophore or a pore forming agent.
11. (original) The device of claim 10, wherein the carrier is an organic ion.
12. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the organic ion is trioctylphosphine oxide (TOPO), diethylhexyl phosphoric acid, triethylhexyl phosphoric acid, dodecylbenzene sulphonic acid, aliquat 336 (trioctylmethylammonium chloride), amberlite LA, tri-n-octyl amine, tetraphenylphosphonium, tetraphenylarsonium, trinitrophenol, or tetraphenylboron.
13. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said polymeric substrate comprises a polyolefin, acrylic copolymer, polyamide, polyester, polyurethane, polycarbonate, polystyrene, fluorinated polymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyacrylonitrile, copolymers thereof, or mixtures thereof.
14. (original) The device of claim 13, wherein the polymeric substrate comprises a polyolefin.
15. (original) The device of claim 14, wherein the polyolefin is polyethylene, polypropylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, poly(tetrafluoroethylene-co-ethyl- ene), or polyethylene-polyvinyl chloride copolymer, copolymers thereof, or mixtures thereof.
16. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said liquid membrane is stable for at least 30 days, 60 days or 90 days.
17. (original) The device of claim 2, wherein said hollow fiber is able to extract at least one analyte after being stored for at least 30 days, 60 days or 90 days.
18. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein in operation, the acceptor solution is placed inside the hollow fiber and the hollow fiber is placed in the sample solution.

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19. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein the acceptor solution can be sampled by an autosampler.

20. (currently amended) A device for carrying out liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte from an aqueous sample, said device comprising a hollow fiber comprised of a porous polymeric substrate and a liquid membrane supported thereon, wherein said liquid membrane comprises a fatty acid ester, or a vegetable oil, a silicone oil, or mixtures thereof.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The device of claim 20, wherein said polymeric substrate comprises a polyolefin, acrylic copolymer, polyamide, polyester, polyurethane, polycarbonate, polystyrene, fluorinated polymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyacrylonitrile, copolymers thereof, or mixtures thereof.

23. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the polymeric substrate comprises a polyolefin.

24. (original) The device of claim 20, wherein said liquid membrane is stable for at least 30 days, 60 days or 90 days.

25-45 (canceled).

46. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a nitroarylalkylether.

47. (currently amended) A device for performing liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte from an aqueous sample comprising a liquid membrane supported on a porous polymeric substrate, wherein said liquid membrane has one side that can be placed in fluid communication with the aqueous sample containing the at least one analyte and a second side that can be placed in fluid communication with an acceptor solution, and wherein said liquid membrane comprises a fatty acid ester, or a vegetable oil, a silicone oil, or mixtures thereof

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The device of claim 1, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a preservative.

48. (previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the liquid membrane supported on a hollow fiber is stored in a closed container prior to use.

49. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the hollow fiber comprised of a porous polymeric substrate and a liquid membrane supported thereon is stored in a closed container prior to use.

50. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a nitroarylalkylether.

51. (currently amended) A device for carrying out liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte from an aqueous sample, said device comprising a hollow fiber comprised of a porous polymeric substrate and a liquid membrane supported thereon, wherein said liquid membrane comprises a fatty acid ester, or a vegetable oil, a silicone oil, or mixtures thereof
The device of claim 20, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a preservative.

Please add the following new claims:

52. (new) A device for carrying out liquid phase microextraction of at least one analyte from an aqueous sample, said device comprising a hollow fiber comprised of a porous polymeric substrate and a liquid membrane supported thereon, wherein said liquid membrane comprises a mixture comprising a silicone oil and a fatty acid ester, a vegetable oil, or a nitroarylalkylether.

53. (new) The device of claim 52, wherein the liquid membrane further comprises a carrier.